

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement decrying gun violence and the shooting of two Miami-Dade police officers. The officers were shot while attempting to serve an arrest warrant this morning in Miami, Florida.

“My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the tragic and senseless deaths of two Miami-Dade officers this morning. I have been deeply concerned about Florida’s relaxed gun control laws and now more than ever it is clear that stronger gun control measures are needed.

“The United States is a rife with gun violence. We have 285 million guns and 310 million citizens, 85 guns for every 100 Americans, and more than 30,000 people are killed every year. After September 11, in which 10 percent of that number died, we began a global war, spent trillions of dollars, and reformed enormous swaths of our federal government to try to prevent even one more attack. But for gun violence? We wring our hands.

“The lessons learned from this shooting, and that of the tragedy in Tucson, are staring us in the face and we need to take action to address the ludicrous availability of guns in this country.”

Hastings is a co-sponsor of H.R. 263, the Fire Sale Loophole Closing Act introduced by Congressman Gary Ackerman and H.R. 308, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act introduced by Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy.

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